

NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Volume XXIX.....No. 10

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving Place.—GERMAN OPERA.—PANDORA.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—CONCERT SONGS.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—ROADSIDE.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—TICKET OF LEAVE MAN.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—A BILL IN A CHINA SHOP.—COMEDY.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—MARRIAGE—DOG OF THE OLD BOSS.—HIGHWAYMAN'S HOLIDAY.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—RAG WOMAN AND HER DICK.—FIVE HUNDRED SPECIES OF BIRDSONG.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM, Broadway.—FRENCH GIANT, GIANT FOX, LILLIPUTIAN KING, &c., at all hours. TICKETS OF LEAVE MAN. A. L. HARRISON AND COMPANY.

RIVERSIDE MINISTERS, N. CORNER HALL, 42 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, PLEASURES, &c.—USCLES SUN GRANT.

WOODS MINISTERS, HALL, 51 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.—FATHERED EXPOSITION.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 44 Broadway.—BALLET, FANTASIES, DIVERSITY, &c.—THE BUSTOPE.

BROADWAY ARCHITECTURE, 45 Broadway.—Gymnastic and acrobatic performances. Afternoon and Evening.

CHURCH CHAPEL, 75 Broadway.—THE SYMPHONIC CONCERT OF THE UNIVERSITY.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—EXHIBITION OF LECTURES, FROM 2 P. M. TO 10 P. M.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, PLEASURES, &c.

New York, Monday, January 11, 1864.

THE SITUATION.

We have interesting news from General Banks' department by the steamer Columbia, which arrived here yesterday, with dates from New Orleans to the 3d inst. Information had been received there from various sources of a combined movement being contemplated on the part of the rebels. It was said that all the rebel troops who have been operating in Western Louisiana, on the banks of the Mississippi and other points, were gathering for Central Texas, and uniting to form one large army, to attack our new acquisitions on the coast of Texas, and would probably number at least twenty thousand. Preparations had been made to meet this rebel force as well as possible with the number of troops in the department, and it was expected that news of great interest from Texas would soon be received.

Our correspondents furnish the details of all the news transpiring in New Orleans; the 'return and humbly of General Andrews' foraging expedition to Humboldt Island from Port Hudson, to which latter place they brought back a good Christmas dinner from the larders of the enemy—which they rifled without compunction—including ducks, chickens, hogs, eggs, turkeys and two thousand bushels of corn. Interesting accounts of the state of affairs in the interior are also given; the arrival of seven hundred exchanged prisoners from Natchitoches, and the presence of the rebel gunboats at Shreveport.

The lines of the Potomac army were marked by more than the usual Sabbath quiet yesterday. Nothing whatever occurred to disturb the monotony or interfere with the religious services of the different chaplains. General Meade has gone to Philadelphia on furlough for a few days.

A despatch from the headquarters of the Department of West Virginia states that Major Cole, who was in command of a battalion of Maryland cavalry, in Loudon county, was attacked at four o'clock yesterday morning by the guerrilla Mosby, four hundred strong. After severe fighting for an hour Mosby was repulsed, leaving his killed and wounded on the field. Among the dead were found four commissioned officers. Our loss is reported as two killed and eleven wounded. Among the latter are Captain Vernon, severely, and Lieutenant Rivers, slightly. General Sullivan has a force of cavalry now in pursuit of the enemy. Mosby's plan was to surround and surprise the camp; but he found Major Cole ready for him.

It is not thought that the enemy can accomplish anything in the Shenandoah valley just now. The river is almost impassable from floating ice, nor is it likely from the position of our forces that the rebels can construct a bridge. The retirement of General Early from that section of country is looked upon as almost certain.

An officer of the rebel army (Third Arkansas regiment), who recently deserted to the Union lines at Fort Smith with his portion of his command, reports that General Holmes is in command of the Trans-Mississippi Department, and General Price commands the army in the field, which does not exceed thirteen thousand. Of Price's Missourians only three or four thousand remain, and but few of these were part of the army which he took out of Missouri. The veterans of Lexington and Pea Ridge are nearly all dead. He says that the reports of the Union success in Texas, and General Banks' possession of the Rio Grande, created great gloom among the rebels, and also that President Lincoln's amnesty proclamation was having effect throughout their ranks, and desertions were frequent in consequence.

Our advices from the Bahamas are dated at Nassau, N. P., on the 2d of January. The foreign trade with Wilmington, N. C., by way of Nassau, was still brisk. There were quite a number of arrivals with "assorted cargoes" for storage, the goods being evidently destined for ultimate shipment to the rebels. New York forwarded seven such cargoes. The United States steamer Sonoma went in pursuit of a steamer on the 29th ultimo.

We learn from Havana that the steamer Morning Star, which left New York on the 26th ult., was closely pursued on the next day, near Cape Matanzas, by a rebel cruiser, of Enjah build, a propeller, lying low in the water, carrying two masts and an unusually high smoke stack. By putting on additional steam and sailing the Morning Star outran her, however.

By the steamship Columbia, which arrived at this port yesterday, we have highly interesting news from Mexico and St. Domingo. Our advices from Mexico represent the French as meeting with almost uninterrupted success in the progress of their different columns through the country. Various cities and towns had been occupied by the imperial army, including Guanajuato and Aguascalientes, and the invaders were marching on Juarez's capital, which they expected to occupy by Christmas. It was reported by the French and their partisans that Juarez himself would seek safety by fleeing to Texas. General Miramon was engaged in raising a force to march on Durango. The entire State of Tamaulipas, it was expected, would soon be in the possession of the imperialists.

From St. Domingo we learn that the Spaniards had gained another victory over the insurgents, in front of Puerto Plata, driving them successively from their various positions, though the number of killed and wounded is said to have been comparatively small. Reinforcements for the Spaniards were constantly arriving, and it was supposed they would soon have sufficient force to overcome all opposition.

Rebel Movements in Virginia—Probable Plans of Jeff. Davis for a Spring Campaign.
The late movements of the rebels in North-eastern and South-western Virginia indicate a comprehensive plan of operations for the coming spring campaign, its principal feature being the establishment of a defensive line from Lee's army to that of General Joe Johnston, in Northern Georgia.

This defensive line will cover the railroad from Gordonsville southwardly to Richmond, and southwardly to Longstreet, in the eastern corner of East Tennessee; and thence across the mountains to Joe Johnston's (late Bragg's) army in Northern Georgia communications will be maintained by the cavalry forces of Wheeler, Sam. Jones, John Morgan and others. In connection with this programme, the late descent of Sam. Jones upon the exposed Union detachment at Jonesville, in South-western Virginia (in the neighborhood of Cumberland Gap), and the later demonstration of General Early in the northeast, threatening the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, are incidental, though very important subordinate operations. The business thus assigned in part to Sam. Jones is to protect the flank of Longstreet and to secure as large a range as possible over East Tennessee for foraging purposes, while the late northern advance of General Early as clearly indicates the purpose of General Lee to protect his flank and to hold on to the supplies of the extensive and fertile Shenandoah valley.

The main objects of this general programme are, first, the defence of Richmond in the east; and, secondly, the defence of those vital railroad lines, the common focus of which is Atlanta, Georgia, and upon the retention of which depends the safety of those extensive military foundries, factories and workshops of all kinds established at Atlanta and Rome. Assuming that the rebel forces between these extremes of Richmond and Rome are or will be under the supreme command of General Lee, they may be set down as the three grand divisions of his army, holding himself the immediate command of the most important division in the East, and Joe Johnston the division at the other end of the line, while, as the case may require, Longstreet is charged with the movable or stationary intermediate division in East Tennessee. Under this arrangement, as the opportunity may demand or invite, Longstreet may move to the support of Johnston or Lee, or either of these two may move to the relief of Longstreet, so long as they hold the great railway line between Gordonsville and East Tennessee and the several more easterly lines between Richmond and Atlanta.

Considering, however, the length of the line—five or six hundred miles—the rickety condition of the railroads thus to be defended, and the irreparable inferiority of the rebel forces at both extremes, this is not a very promising programme to Jeff. Davis, unless it may turn out to involve the abandonment of Richmond and Virginia. In that event, with the junction of Lee's Virginia army, regulars and guerrillas, with Longstreet, and with all these forces operating together, with Joe Johnston heavily reinforced, as he doubtless will be by a sweeping conscription, they may give to General Grant abundant employment. Cut off from their confederates north of Tennessee and west of the Mississippi, we fully believe that the only remaining chance to the rebel chiefs at Richmond for an overwhelming concentration of their limited forces is the abandonment of Richmond; for in relinquishing the other end of their line they already divided and dismantled confederacy will be at once cut in two between Chattanooga and Charleston.

As it is possible, then, that the rebel leaders may be preparing for the evacuation of Richmond and Virginia, under the pressure of their desperate necessities, and with the hope of returning again after the overthrow of Grant's armies, we would urge this view of the subject upon the special attention of the government. We would especially urge during the winter such vigilant reconnaissances from the Richmond peninsula and from Norfolk in the direction of the Southern roads communicating with the rebel capital as will keep the government well informed of the enemy's movements in that quarter and baffle their designs, so far as they may involve a stealthy evacuation of Virginia.

The rebellion can be utterly demolished by General Grant in the spring if the War Office can only contrive during the winter to keep within sight of the army of Lee or to hold the rebel government at Richmond.

MR. WELLES' ORDER ON PRIZES.—By the recent order of Mr. Welles relative to the capture of prizes, it appears that hereafter, when a transport or supply ship takes a blockade runner, and when a naval vessel comes in sight, she must transfer the prize over to the latter, and also surrender all claim to the prize money. We suppose this order is intended to bolster up the reputation of the navy, and to prevent the Fulton and other vessels like her from doing the good service they have hitherto done by capturing blockade runners, while the naval vessels, for want of speed, fail to do their duty. It is very probable, therefore, that this class of transport and supply ships will mind their own business in future, and let the Navy Department take care of its own reputation. They have no inducement now, either of honor or reward, to trouble themselves about it.

The Financier of the Day.

Mr. Chase's financial career offers another illustration of the correctness of the proverb that it is better to be born lucky than wise. He has said and done enough to damn the reputation of any man in his position. And yet there are people who believe in him as the incarnation of financial wisdom, and who are of opinion that he has had a great hand in saving the Union. They are not very numerous, it is true, and they include but few who know anything about financial matters.

The only principle which seems to have governed Mr. Chase's administration of the national finances from the outset has been that of providing merely for the necessities of the hour. When, after the outbreak of the rebellion, he came to New York to find means of replenishing an empty treasury he obtained from our banks and moneyed men a loan of \$150,000,000, on the assurance that there would be no stoppage of specie payments. Whatever might be the duration of the war, there would be no difficulty in keeping this promise; for all further aid that the government required could have been raised by loans and taxation. But on Mr. Chase's return to Washington his personal interests and those of his political partisans engrossed much of his attention, to the exclusion of other considerations. The prompt crushing out of the rebellion and the maintenance of the public credit became secondary objects. Occupied in distributing the fat things in his gift to those who were in a position to advance his views as to the Presidency, and busy with the management of our armies, whose operations were directed by him solely in reference to the extinguishment of slavery, he had no time to attend to the duties of his official position. The consequences were just what were to be expected from such a course.

Since his first financial visit to this city not only has the specie basis been abandoned, but four hundred and sixty-five millions of unredeemable Treasury notes have been added to the currency, while gold has been up to a premium of 172 and the value of labor has been diminished nearly one-half. And, as an inevitable result, the rebellion, which the Secretary of the Treasury promised should be put down in ninety days, has, up to a recent period, been prospering, our ill success having the effect of raising the credit of the rebel confederacy abroad and of furnishing it with the means of replenishing its wasted resources. That it has been again brought to a state of exhaustion, and that we ourselves have narrowly escaped it, is not due to any later inspirations of Mr. Chase or any change in his policy. We owe it to the brilliant successes of General Grant. Where should we now be but for the magnificent victories by which he has cut the rebel confederacy in two and paralyzed its energies? It is to these, and not to the success of Mr. Chase's plans, that we owe the fact that the paper issues of the government are not largely depreciated and gold at a higher premium than it has ever been. General Grant, and not Mr. Chase, is then, our financial as well as our military savior. He has solved with his sword the difficulties which the contracted views and selfish ambition of the Secretary of the Treasury rendered him incapable of grasping. A new light is, however, breaking in on Mr. Chase's mind as to the ruinous effects of his policy; for in his recent report he talks of the necessity of a contraction of the currency. We do not expect that he will make any effort to retract his steps. He has so often deceived us by fallacious hopes that the country places no reliance upon his assurances.

It is to the genius of that great soldier, statesman and financier, General Grant, that we look for rescue from the financial abyss into which we are being hurried. His victories will serve to maintain confidence in the future, until his election to the Presidency places it beyond the power of the fanatics to work any further mischief to the national interests.

HOW SHIPS ARE BUILT FOR THE NAVY.—We were in hopes that with our new fleet of double-enders we were to have a number of well built and fast vessels. As to their speed we as yet have not sufficient data to speak as fully as the subject deserves; but as to the mode of their construction we have seen enough of them to state that, with but few exceptions, mostly those built at navy yards, they are the most miserably built vessels in the navy. Not long since it was found that a number of them needed caulking, and accordingly contracts were issued to have the work performed. Of course the lowest bidders obtained the job. In the first place, the vessels had not been half-caulked; in fact, so poorly was it done that a person could run a knifeblade with ease into the seams. To make them seaworthy they must be recaulked, and the contract stated clearly the quantity and quality of oakum and best Southern pitch to be used, and the vessels were given out, as it was supposed, to be well done.

It was found by the lowest bidders that to faithfully do the work it would require nearly double the quantities of material contracted for; and, as they had taken the job at a lower figure than most honest men could do, it became necessary to do the work in a cheap manner, which was not only disgraceful to themselves, but dangerous to those who should go out in these vessels. Consequently but a small thread of oakum was put in the seams, although the contract stated that they must be well "caulked." This meagre amount of oakum was duly pitched and putted over until the vessels had the appearance of being thoroughly caulked; whereas, no sooner will the vessels get to sea and begin to work in a sea way than they will leak like sieves, and if they do not founder they will be obliged to put back in distress, and be refitted at a large cost of time and money. To say the least, such operations are downright swindles, and should be punished to the full extent of the law.

The same species of swindling can be found in vessels which have from time to time been purchased by the Navy Department, numbers of which have been built with no other object than to sell them to the government. The builders of them would not dare to offer such a class of vessels to a respectable mercantile house; but they know how to grease the ways of sale as well as their own launching ways, and as a natural consequence they are purchased, and we have so-called copper fastened vessels, whose only copper fastening is blunt bolts, which are not worth having in a ship, and are only used to palm off a vessel to the unscrupulous. Half built machinery, broken screws and wheery engines are bought and paid for at from one-third to one-

half more than their real value. It is to be hoped that the committee of investigation proposed in Congress will look into some of these matters, and out of great darkness bring to light some of the rascality of men who claim to be Americans and loyal citizens.

NAPOLEON AND MEXICO.—GRANT AND THE UNITED STATES.—Napoleon III. would long since have drawn out of his Mexican scheme had he not hoped that our civil war would so weaken us that his encroachment on this continent would remain unresisted, if only from our want of power to sustain the Monroe doctrine. He urged England and Spain to a joint interference between us and our rebellious subjects in favor of the latter. He well knew that, could he induce such a course on the part of the great Powers whose aid he solicited, his schemes in Mexico would more than likely be fraught with success. But both England and Spain had a wholesome dread of thoroughly arousing the American people, and were unwilling to aid the imperial adventurer in a plan which could benefit but him alone. The resources which our arms met with from the stupid blundering and meddling of the administration in the case of General McClellan caused Napoleon to hope that, after all, we were powerless, and he no doubt at one moment thought seriously of openly advocating Davis and his fellow traitors, even at the risk of a capture with this government.

But then came the splendid victories of General Grant and other officers in the West, and Napoleon paused to await events. The fall of Vicksburg, which great victory was due to the genius of General Grant, totally disturbed all the plans of the Emperor of the French, as far as we were concerned, and made him abandon the South. Now he finds that his position on this continent is critical in the extreme. He is well aware that General Grant's last great victory at Chattanooga was a death blow to the cause of the rebellion, and that from the South he can expect no aid. He foresees that General Grant must soon conquer a peace, and that, once freed from civil war, we shall be called upon to turn our attention to Mexico.

The election of General Grant to the Presidency would give us a man at the head of our government who permits no juggling on the part of our adversaries. He forces them to the point without loss of time. No one will watch our approaching Presidential election with more interest than Napoleon. He appreciates that were a mere partisan elected we should have to dread civil war in the North, and that while occupied with our own troubles we should not be enabled to attend to the schemes of those who have dared to intrude upon our continent. But if we elect a Union man, one upon whom the choice of the people can count, we shall be assured of a speedy cessation of the present war and an immediate assumption of all our rights abroad. That General Grant is such a person the most prejudiced cannot deny. The Emperor of the French will doubtless feel that his case is hopeless, both on this continent and in Europe, when we shall have elected General Grant President of the United States. Grant will drive the first nail in Napoleon's coffin.

EMIGRATION AND ITS PROSPECTIVE RESULTS.—The enormous progressive increase which is taking place in European emigration to our shores, in spite of the influences used to check it by foreign governments, suggests reflections as to the development it is likely to take when the war is ended and the South thrown open to industrial and manufacturing enterprise. The year before last the total number of immigrants who reached this country was 60,000. Last year upwards of 120,000 arrived here. Of these latter the great majority were young, healthy and energetic, and provided with more or less means. We lay stress on this fact, because it shows that this access of population is that which is just now most required to fill up the gaps made by the requirements of the war in our industrial population.

If in the midst of a gigantic contest, with the terrors of conscription paraded before their eyes by their own governments and journals, the young men of Europe are attracted here in such numbers, what may we not expect when the war is brought to a close and the South thrown open to foreign immigration? The old theory that cotton can only be successfully cultivated by the blacks has been disproved by the Germans of Texas; and, if the resistance of the rebels is to be pushed to the point of rendering their plantations liable to confiscation, there is no doubt that vast numbers of European farmers and laborers will be induced to come here by the hope of having these cotton lands parceled out among them. Even people of the Latin races will find their account in uniting their destinies to ours, thus reversing Napoleon's idea. We should not be surprised if, in the first few years after the termination of the war, the emigration from all parts of the world to the United States were to present one of the most remarkable movements of population on record. During that period we shall probably add from three to four millions to our numbers from abroad, and these composed of the classes which contribute most to the wealth and prosperity of a country. Thus the very influences which the European governments fostered, in the hope of destroying us, will react fatally upon themselves, and render us stronger, more united and more powerful than ever.

THE CONDUCT OF THE BRITISH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES.—Since General Gillmore demolished Fort Sumter and commenced throwing shells into Charleston from those long guns of his at a distance of three or four miles the tone of the British authorities has undergone a favorable change towards this government. Some of our other neighbors also have become more friendly and good natured. The first evidence of this was witnessed in the information conveyed to Mr. Seward by the Canadian authorities of the plot to release the rebel prisoners at Johnson's Island and invade the towns on our lake frontier. Now we perceive an equally friendly disposition evinced in Halifax in the case of the Chesapeake prisoners. The presiding Judge and the Advocate General have both declared the seizure of that steamer unmitigated piracy, and pronounced in favor of her restoration to her owners. This is just as it should be. It is what we have always done by England, and if she had pursued this course from the beginning, instead of giving aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States government, the rebellion would have collapsed long since.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT AND THE RIGHTS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS.—It appears that Secretary Stanton has been committing a blunder, and one which is calculated to stir up bitter feeling among the entire corps diplomatique in Washington and elsewhere. It will be remembered that about a fortnight since the steamer George Cromwell, bound hence for New Orleans, was overhauled by command of the War Department just prior to her departure, and all articles contraband of war, such as rifles, revolvers, bowie knives, &c., found among the baggage of passengers were taken possession of by the United States Marshal, in the name of the government. Among the baggage so searched was that of the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from San Salvador, Dr. Henry Segur, who was on his way home. It seems that not only was the war material found in the Doctor's possession seized by the United States Marshal, but the person of the Minister himself was also seized and taken to Fort Lafayette, where, we believe, he now is. It is stated that the warlike implements captured were really not intended for the use of the rebels, as the War Department supposed, but for the use of the liberal cause in San Salvador, the President of that republic (Barrios) being now in this city, and vouching for the truthfulness of this view of the case. There is always more or less ceremony in the reception of a foreign minister by the government, and also in his departure from the country. If the government does not approve of the person sent as the representative of a foreign government his exit is denied, or, if he be approved for a time, and his presence subsequently becomes offensive, he is politely informed that his passports await him, and that his presence as a foreign representative near this government will be no longer tolerated. Dr. Segur, it appears, received no notice of this kind. The corps diplomatique hold that he was entitled to all the prerogatives and immunities guaranteed to foreign ambassadors, and so far as his detention, arrest and imprisonment are concerned, the act of the War Department in causing them is deemed an outrage to the representative of a foreign State.

GRAND LOGIC IN THE SENATE.—On the resolution of Mr. Hale, the other day, calling for an investigation into the affairs of the Navy Department, several Senators opposed it, and used the curious logic that the measure would cast some reflections upon the management of the department and on the course of the administration and honest able. This argument is almost tantamount to an admission that there is something wrong somewhere. Surely, if there be, honest able Lincoln would be the last man to refuse or object to an investigation. It is the duty of the government to investigate all frauds in the public service, whether they may lie at the doors of members of their own party or not. The logic of the dissenting Senators is thus very bad, if not very suspicious.

THE RECENT ARRIVES IN NEW YORK.—WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE.—The recent arrivals in the New York Custom House in the departments at Washington and elsewhere of certain financial agents of the government look very bad for the management of Mr. Chase, and will do him considerable damage in public estimation. If it is the duty of the head of a department to keep a strict surveillance over its affairs in times of peace, how much more imperative is that duty in time of war. These arrests only prove, however, what we have before said, that in attending to the business of the War Department Mr. Chase has been neglecting his own. We see now the truth of that remark and the deplorable result of the Secretary's course. The head of a department is virtually responsible for the shortcomings of his subordinates, and it is his business to see that frauds and malfeasance in office do not occur. If they do, as in these late cases, the people of course hold the chief of the department to a strict accountability. Mr. Chase has one year more of office to run, and he ought to use his time in making his department straight. Let him leave the War Department and the generals alone, and give his attention to the finances of the country, with which he is entrusted. Then he will stand better in the opinion of the people as a public officer.

WHAT IS THE NAVY DOING?—There are now five hundred vessels in the navy, yet we do not hear of their doing anything. Their movements seem to be curbed at Washington. In the beginning of the war we had an occasional achievement which gave some credit to the navy by such men as Farragut, Dupont, and Porter; but now we hear nothing of its accomplishments. Surely, with five hundred ships the navy ought to have some record. We ought to get materials for a paragraph now and then, at all events.

INTERESTING FROM WASHINGTON.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 10, 1864.
ARRANGEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT FOR CARRYING OUT THE AMNESTY PROCLAMATION.
The President is engaged in inaugurating measures to carry out the terms of his amnesty proclamation and secure the speedy organization of governments in the seceded States; that are to any considerable extent occupied by the Union forces.

THE OPPOSITION MEMBERS ON SPECIE PAYMENTS AND THE AMNESTY PROCLAMATION.
The democratic and conservative members of Congress met on Saturday evening in the Capitol, with Hon. John L. Dawson, of Pennsylvania, in the chair, and unanimously adopted the following important resolution, offered by Hon. James Brooks, of New York:—
Resolved, gold or silver is paid to our ministers, consuls and commissioners representing the action in foreign countries, and gold and silver are received from the people at the custom houses in payment of duties, and whereas, the people are taxed to pay capitalists their interest in specie on their investments in the national debt, therefore, be it
Resolved, that the officers, soldiers and sailors in the army and navy should be paid in gold and silver or their equivalents in amount, and be it
Resolved, that the Chairman of this meeting be instructed to prepare amendments to the Army and Navy Bill to the effect—
The following resolution, from a committee appointed to consult upon the political matters likely to come before Congress, was also adopted:—
Resolved, that the President's Proclamation of the 8th of December, 1863, is unwise, inexpedient, revolutionary and unconstitutional, and is, therefore, disapproved.

VISIT OF GENERAL HENRY TO PHILADELPHIA.
General Meade passed through this city this afternoon for Philadelphia on a short leave of absence to visit his family.

MILITARY NOMINATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT.
Among the military nominations sent in to the Senate, but not yet acted upon, are the following:—
NOMINATIONS.
Major General Oliver O. Howard, United States Army, from July 4, 1863, to fill an original vacancy.
Major General Geo. O. Meade, United States Army, from July 4, 1863, to fill an original vacancy.
Major General James B. McPherson, United States Army, from July 4, 1863, to fill an original vacancy.
Major General George B. Thomas, United States Army, from July 4, 1863, to fill an original vacancy.

THE GERMAN OPERA.
To-night Beethoven's Fidelio will be sung by the artists of the German Opera troupe, at the Academy of Music, for the benefit of Mrs. Johanna. The feature of the evening's performance will be the debut of Herr Hermann, a basso, who has a well established European reputation. The London journals speak in terms of praise of this artist, whose aid was much needed by the German artists here. We are assured that Herr Hermann sings in English and Italian as well as German.

ENGLISH OPERA.
On Wednesday evening Mr. Gabriel Harrison's English Opera troupe will sing Belle's Bohemian Girl at Niblo's Saloon. These artists have appeared in this opera at the Park theatre, Brooklyn, with very great success.

Arrest of an Importer.
A new member of the New York City Police, travelling up and down the river, representing himself as agent of the New York Associated Press, and correspondents of several newspapers, was arrested at Newburgh, and lodged in Irving Prison. Papers have been found upon him proving him an importer, and impeding him as a rebel spy.

THE WASHINGTON SANITARY COMMISSION FAIR.
The preparations for the great National Sanitary Fair to be held here are being energetically pressed forward. Valuable contributions have already been sent in. Among the rest Tiffany & Co., of New York, have forwarded a magnificent box of goods, and a liberal contribution has been received from Lord & Taylor, of New York. A large temporary building is being erected on the square corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Seventh street, in which to hold the fair, and the indication is that it will be a complete success, and compare favorably with those which have recently been held in other cities in aid of this great national work.

THE WASHINGTON AND ALEXANDRIA RAILROAD.
It is reported that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company are negotiating for the purchase of the Washington and Alexandria Railroad, with a view to an extension of their road South whenever the state of the country will admit of the resumption of railroad communication with that section of the country.

MR. CLARK OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT, NOT BOWED DOWN.
The statement that Mr. Clark, the chief of the Note Bureau, in the Treasury Department, had been suspended from duty, is totally without foundation, and there is authority for this denial. There will probably be a vigorous examination as to the motives of the author of this report.

COMMISSIONER OF THE COURT OF CLAIMS.
J. B. Freeman, of Philadelphia, has been appointed Commissioner of the Court of Claims for the District of Columbia.

NEW COTTON FIELDS.
The Commissioner of Agriculture has received, through the State Department, from C. F. Winslow, Esq., United States Consul at Lima, Peru, eleven specimens of cultivated and wild cotton, grown in the Chiriqui valley. Some of the specimens are very fine and valuable.

In a communication to the Secretary of State, accompanying these specimens, Mr. Winslow states that the influence of the interest troubles of this country has extended to Peru, in commercial and agricultural respects. The necessities created by the almost total suspension of supplies of cotton from the United States have stimulated its production in the interior tropical regions of Peru. Cotton was cultivated by the ancient Indian population that flourished under the Incas for their common use, but was wholly neglected by the Spaniards, and ran to waste; but the climate and soil being particularly adapted to its growth, it has continued to flourish as a wild plant. Rich plantations have been laid out in the valley of the Chiriqui—a river bottom, averaging more than two miles in width and extending from the bay to the Andes. The cultivation has been very successful, and a quantity of the cotton is being exported to England. The success of the initial experiments made by Messrs. Garland and Duval have encouraged the institution of similar enterprises, with Peruvian capital, in all the valleys that skirt the Andes favorable to its cultivation. The production of the staple in this region is likely to become important and exceedingly remunerative to those engaged in it. The greatest obstacle to be overcome in rendering it available is the difficulty in the interior regions of transporting it to the coast, the only means of transportation available being on the backs of mules, who can carry only from three to four hundred pounds at a load. The Egyptian and Sea Island cotton grows in all this region with an improved fineness and length of staple, and the wild cotton, by cultivation and mixing, is becoming much improved in quality and of greater value. The Egyptian cotton, when once started, grows thrifty, and in four months begins to yield. The native cotton grows in eight months. Both open every successive day, so that picking on large plantations will be continuous labor. It is said that there are two seasons to the yield of the wild cotton, and that the trees, which sometimes grow to the height of twenty to twenty-five feet, continue to thrive for ten years. The cultivated cotton of foreign varieties seems to differ from this habit of periodicity and inflicts a continuous and uninterrupted harvest, and becomes perennial.

NEW GARDEN SEEDS.
The Commissioner of Agriculture has advices of a large invoice of superior garden seeds on the way from England. They will be put in packages and ready for distribution at an early day. Members of Congress will receive their supplies of seeds from the Agricultural Department much earlier this year than usual, which will enable them to make distributions to their constituents in better season for use.

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC TIMERS.
The Commissioner of the General Land Office has despatched to the proper officers at Yankton, Dakota Territory, peremptory instructions with view to arrest application of public timber by seizure of the axes and the punishment of trespassers.

Memorial.
To-night Beethoven's Fidelio will be sung by the artists of the German Opera troupe, at the Academy of Music, for the benefit of Mrs. Johanna. The feature of the evening's performance will be the debut of Herr Hermann, a basso, who has a well established European reputation. The London journals speak in terms of praise of this artist, whose aid was much needed by the German artists here. We are assured that Herr Hermann sings in English and Italian as well as German.

ENGLISH OPERA.
On Wednesday evening Mr. Gabriel Harrison's English Opera troupe will sing Belle's Bohemian Girl at Niblo's Saloon. These artists have appeared in this opera at the Park theatre, Brooklyn, with very great success.

Arrest of an Importer.
A new member of the New York City Police, travelling up and down the river, representing himself as agent of the New York Associated Press, and correspondents of several newspapers, was arrested at Newburgh, and lodged in Irving Prison. Papers have been found upon him proving him an importer, and impeding him as a rebel spy.